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Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Report of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Summary

The present report contains information provided by six divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs: the Division for the Advancement of Women; the Division for Sustainable Development; the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests; the Statistics Division; the Division for Public Administration and Development Management; and the Division for Social Policy and Development, in particular the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Each Division has highlighted its activities in relation to indigenous peoples' issues and this information is expected to provide the basis for the in-depth dialogue due to take place during the eighth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

* E/C.19/2009/1.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Division for the Advancement of Women	3
III.	Division for Sustainable Development	8
IV.	Division for Social Policy and Development	13
	Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	13
V.	Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests	18
VI.	Statistics Division	20
VII.	Division for Public Administration and Development Management	21
VIII.	Conclusion	22

I. Introduction

1. The present report contains contributions from six divisions of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It is expected that this information will form the basis for the in-depth dialogue at the eighth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The United Nations development agenda defines the core objectives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The substantive focus of the Department's work spans most of the agenda's basic elements: gender equality issues and advancement of women, social policy and development, population, sustainable development, sustainable forest management, development policy and analysis, financing for development, public administration and development management, and statistics.

2. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides substantive support to the key intergovernmental mechanisms to promote accountability for and monitoring of the agenda's implementation. It supports fundamental processes that underpin development efforts worldwide, such as economic forecasting, the global statistical system and the production of population estimates and projections, and has significant responsibilities in promoting United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination, including as convener of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. The Department also produces a broad range of analytical products and policy advice that serve as valuable sources of reference and decision-making tools for policy formulation and capacity development in many countries, both developed and developing. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs is also the Coordinator for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

II. Division for the Advancement of Women

3. The Division for the Advancement of Women provides support to United Nations intergovernmental bodies, including the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women, in relation to their work on gender equality and the advancement of women. It supports the development and implementation by Governments and other stakeholders of policies for the achievement of equality between women and men and enjoyment by women of all of their human rights. It prepares reports and policy options and identifies emerging trends and good practices. The Division advocates the improvement of the status of women in all areas of their lives, including as beneficiaries of sustainable development, human rights, peace and security.

Women 2000 and beyond: rural women in a changing world: opportunities and challenges

4. This publication was launched on the International Day of Rural Women (15 October 2008) and includes consideration of the situation of indigenous women. It highlights the attention given to these groups of women in the United Nations intergovernmental processes, the issues raised, such as the multiple forms of discrimination faced by rural indigenous women, and recommendations made by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues concerning indigenous women. The publication describes activities by United Nations entities, including a project aimed at harnessing the local knowledge of indigenous women to strengthen

agriculture and rural development. In discussing rural poverty, the publication calls for attention to the priorities and needs of specific groups of rural women, such as indigenous women.

International Day of Rural Women

5. On the first observance of the International Day of Rural Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women co-sponsored a panel discussion with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Speakers highlighted the valuable contributions of rural women to agriculture and development, and paid particular attention to the role of indigenous women. They emphasized the need to better reflect the fundamental rights of indigenous women in policies, plans and institutional arrangements, and for greater attention to their rights to land and natural resources, and food sovereignty.

World survey on the role of women in development

6. The Division for the Advancement of Women is in the process of preparing the 2009 world survey on the role of women in development, which will cover the issue of women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance. The survey is scheduled to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session. The situation of indigenous women has been raised at preparatory events.

Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women — expert panel on gender perspectives on climate change

7. At its fifty-second session, from 25 February to 7 March 2008, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive expert panel to examine the emerging issue of gender perspectives on climate change. Anastasia Pinto, an indigenous woman of the Meitei nation in India, was one of the panellists. Speakers highlighted the need to include indigenous peoples, women and other groups in climate-related decision-making. In discussing the gender-specific impacts of climate change, participants noted that indigenous women were especially susceptible to the negative impact of natural disasters.

Follow-up to recommendations of the Permanent Forum

8. The Division for the Advancement of Women endeavours to integrate attention to the situation of indigenous women in all areas of its work. Some of these particular areas are summarized below.

Commission on the Status of Women

9. The Commission on the Status of Women, primarily in its work on follow-up to, and implementation of, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, continues to address the situation of indigenous women in relation to priority themes, emerging issues and review themes, as well as in relation to particular resolutions. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to identify opportunities for the participation of experts on indigenous women in panels and side events related to sessions of the Commission.

Events related to the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women

10. At the Commission's fifty-first session, from 26 February to 9 March 2007, the situation of indigenous girls was addressed in a high-level round table on the priority theme, "the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child". The situation of indigenous women was addressed in an interactive expert panel on the emerging issue, elimination of all forms of violence against women: follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at the national and international levels.

11. At the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in 2006, Noeli Pocaterra, President of the Permanent Commission of Indigenous Peoples National Assembly, Venezuela, was a speaker on a panel convened to celebrate International Women's Day (8 March 2006). Several side events held during the session dealt with indigenous women, including on violence against indigenous women, co-sponsored by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, MADRE (an international human rights organization focusing on women's rights) and the International Indigenous Women's Forum.

12. At the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in 2005, 60 indigenous women from different parts of the world attended. They participated in eight side events and two press conferences, among other activities. The Division for the Advancement of Women collaborated with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in the organization of a panel discussion to review progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action from an indigenous perspective. Panellists included Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, member of the Permanent Forum, Lucy Mulenkei, African Indigenous Women's Organization — Indigenous Information Network, Tarcila Rivera, CHIRAPAQ, Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú, Stella Tamang, South Asia Indigenous Women's Forum, and Beverly Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. The situation of indigenous women was also highlighted in a panel discussion that addressed the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (progress, gaps and challenges) and in a panel discussion on future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality: through the eyes of young women and men.

Participation of Chairpersons

13. The Chairpersons of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Permanent Forum have participated in the sessions of their respective bodies. For example, Merike Kokajev, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum addressed the fifty-first session of the Commission in February 2007. The Chairperson of the Commission, Ambassador Carmen María Gallardo, addressed the Permanent Forum at its fifth session in May 2006.

Reports

14. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to address, as appropriate, the situation of indigenous women in reports it prepares for the Commission on the Status of Women. A questionnaire that served to compile information from Governments for the 10-year review and appraisal of the

implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission in 2005 requested Governments to include information on actions implemented to address the situation of indigenous women. As a result, 24 Governments provided information on indigenous women, specifically on the Government's measures, actions and policies aimed at improving the status of indigenous women and on the obstacles and challenges with respect to eliminating discrimination against indigenous women and overcoming their social and economic exclusion. The report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission summarized these efforts (E/CN.6/2005/2, paras. 572-595). Several other recent reports prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women included some information on the situation of indigenous women and girls, such as a report on progress in mainstreaming gender perspectives in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme, the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child (E/CN.6/2007/3), and the economic advancement for women (E/CN.6/2006/7).

Resolutions

15. At its forty-ninth session, from 28 February to 11 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted resolution 49/7 on indigenous women beyond the 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The situation of indigenous women was also highlighted in resolution 49/2 on eliminating demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation.

Work of the Division for the Advancement of Women on violence against women

16. The Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women,[1] prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women and presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, also discusses violence against indigenous women. The International Indigenous Women's Forum, associated with MADRE, was an active member of the task force set up by the Division to support the preparation of the study.

17. The non-governmental organization report entitled *Mairin Iwanka Raya, Indigenous Women Stand against Violence* was issued as a companion to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women. In October 2006, a panel discussion was organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, MADRE and the International Indigenous Women's Forum to present the report, and a staff member of the Division for the Advancement of Women participated in the panel discussion.

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

18. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to participate and contribute to two task forces, namely the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)/Task Force on Indigenous Women and the Intra-Departmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. As part of the Intra-Departmental Task Force, the Division prepared a plan to implement the Second International Decade of the World's

[1] A/61/122/Add.1.

Indigenous People, as a component of the Department's Plan of Action for the Decade. As part of the IANWGE Task Force, the Division contributed to an inventory of mandates, an overview of programmes and activities focusing on indigenous women that have been carried out, and a strategy and workplan to mainstream indigenous women's issues in the work of the United Nations.

United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality

19. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women was a member of the Task Force on Education and Gender Equality. The report of the Task Force, entitled *Taking action: achieving gender equality and empowering women*, addressed the situation of indigenous women and girls, in particular in connection with the need to strengthen opportunities for education.

Women 2000 and beyond: gender equality and empowerment of women through information and communications technologies

20. This publication of the Division for the Advancement of Women, issued in September 2005, also covers the use of information and communications technology for the empowerment of indigenous women.

Work on rural women

21. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to work on the issue of rural women, including indigenous women, in the context of the General Assembly (see para. 4 above). It has addressed the situation of indigenous women in reports to the Assembly on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas. For example, the report of 2007[2] recommended that steps be taken to promote consultations with, and participation of, rural women, including indigenous women, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development interventions.

Obstacles

22. The Division for the Advancement of Women endeavours to highlight, whenever possible, the situation of indigenous women in relation to particular issues or topics, in response to intergovernmental mandates. However, the capacities and resources of the Division to work specifically on the situation of indigenous women are limited. Information requested by the Division from different stakeholders, including Member States and entities of the United Nations system, for preparation of reports of the Secretary-General rarely focus on the situation of indigenous women.

Facilitating factors

23. Existing general mandates in resolutions, agreements and other outcomes of intergovernmental bodies on gender equality and empowerment of women provide the basis for the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women in this area. The Division also benefits from collaboration with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

[2] A/62/202.

Policies

24. The Division for the Advancement of Women does not have a specific policy or budgetary allocation on indigenous peoples' issues. With regard to activities on indigenous women, see the relevant information above.

Capacity-building

25. The Division for the Advancement of Women has not implemented a training or capacity-building programme for staff on indigenous peoples' issues. Staff members have the opportunity to apply for training in particular areas, as part of the Department's staff development programme.

Focal point

26. The focal point for the Division for the Advancement of Women is as follows:

Janette Amer
Women's Rights Section
Division for the Advancement of Women/Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DC2-1236

Upcoming events

27. The Division for the Advancement of Women will continue to identify opportunities for the participation of experts on indigenous women in panels, meetings and other events that it organizes. The Division is seeking to organize, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, a side event in connection with the eighth session of the Permanent Forum.

III. Division for Sustainable Development

28. In response to the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum at its seventh session addressed specifically to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/2008/43, para. 73), the Division for Sustainable Development has continued to strengthen and support the existing mechanisms that provide a platform for indigenous local-local cooperation and the establishment of a network of indigenous local governments for information exchange and capacity-building. The Division has also collaborated closely with other Department of Economic and Social Affairs colleagues to develop, fund and launch the Department's Integrated Civil Society Organizations (iCSO) System[3] to facilitate interactions among civil society organizations and the Department at all levels. The iCSO System is an online database that includes all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, is also open to any interested civil society organizations that wish to provide information and can serve as a potential tool for collaboration and networking among civil society organizations at all levels. Indigenous peoples' organizations and other non-governmental organizations working with, and for, indigenous and local communities can be selected as search

[3] http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/login.do.

fields and identified based on location, regional scope, areas of activity and other data.[4]

29. Data and indicators on indigenous peoples at the national level are available through the Division's national reporting mechanism[5] and through the compendium of country-by-country profiles developed by the Workers and Trade Unions Major Group sector.[6] The Division also maintains a web page dedicated to indigenous peoples as one of the nine major groups' sectors identified in Agenda 21.[7]

30. Supporting this, as well as numerous other recommendations made by the Permanent Forum at its seventh session,[8] the Division for Sustainable Development hosted a side event during that session to promote and inform indigenous groups about opportunities for involvement in the Commission on Sustainable Development process. The Division has also encouraged and facilitated active contributions by indigenous peoples' organizations to the work of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York from 5 to 16 May 2008, and the seventeenth session, comprised of an Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, held from 23 to 27 February 2009, and the session itself, held from 4 to 15 May 2009. The Commission on Sustainable Development cycle (sixteenth and seventeenth sessions), addresses progress in implementing sustainable development commitments outlined in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[9] in relation to agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.[10]

31. For the sixteenth session (review year), indigenous peoples' groups submitted written inputs to the reports of the Secretary-General, produced examples of case studies to be included in the Commission on Sustainable Development matrix and the sustainable development case studies database, and prepared an official discussion paper[11] through the coordination of a steering group of indigenous organizations led by the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba) and the Indigenous Environmental Network. Furthermore, a special study on indigenous peoples in Africa[12] in relation to the Commission on Sustainable Development agenda was prepared and submitted by the steering group. Indigenous peoples' organizations also participated in the activities of the sixteenth session itself of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including two dedicated major groups' multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions, one high-level dialogue session with major groups and ministers, thematic panel discussions, regional discussions, and small island developing States day

[4] This can also be considered a response to the Permanent Forum recommendation contained in E/2008/43, para. 65.

[5] http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/natlinfo.htm.

[6] http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php?ID=0&Lang=ENG.

[7] http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/about_mgroups/amg_indigenous_main.htm.

[8] Other Permanent Forum recommendations relevant to the work of the Division for Sustainable Development are found in E/2008/43, paras. 9, 11, 23, 27, 30, 33, 53, 65, 69, 118, 128, 135 and 148.

[9] Response to the Permanent Forum recommendation contained in E/2008/43, para. 53.

[10] Response to the Permanent Forum recommendation contained in E/2008/43, para. 33.

[11] The indigenous peoples' discussion paper is made available in all United Nations languages at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_sdissues_major_groups.htm#CSD-16.

[12] Indigenous briefs available at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/mg/ipafrica.pdf.

discussions, statements made during the closing plenary,[13] and participation in the Partnerships Fair, the Learning Centre and side events.

32. During the seventeenth session (policy year) in 2009, indigenous peoples have actively collaborated with other major groups' sectors in outlining their priorities for action,[14] are participating in several high-level intersessional meetings and will be participating in the official meetings through similar entry points outlined above for the sixteenth session of the Commission.

33. The discussions during the two-year cycle of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (which will end on 15 May 2009) have already been shaped by the strength of indigenous peoples' views and inputs. The summary of the Chairman of the sixteenth session includes explicit references to indigenous peoples in 20 separate paragraphs[15] that address issues important to current and past recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including: the need for access to land and secure land tenure, especially for women;[16] the importance of local and traditional knowledge in agriculture, integrated water resources management, drought and desertification adaptation and mitigation; the need to support capacity-building for local communities and indigenous peoples according to the Bali Strategic Plan;[17] and promotion of small-scale traditional agriculture and sustainable livestock production. The Chairman also stated that implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples would further efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.[18]

34. Apart from the Commission on Sustainable Development process, the Division for Sustainable Development also supports indigenous peoples' active involvement in the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production,[19] and recognizes 19 multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development that are currently working with and/or for indigenous communities at the local, regional and global levels to address issues related to water, agricultural heritage, land, biodiversity protection and biotrade development. Representatives of the Division participate regularly in the Permanent Forum Inter-Agency Support Group,[20] and participated in a Non-Governmental Liaison Service Working Seminar on the United Nations and People's Organizations, held on 3 and 4 November 2008. The Division for Sustainable Development has also contributed its expertise and experience in the Service's study on engaging social/peoples' organizations and movements: an essential step towards enhanced legitimacy of the United Nations global governance processes, to be issued in the spring of 2009.

35. Recognizing the special needs of Africa, the Division for Sustainable Development is also undertaking measures to establish a long-term programme for Africa that will be implemented in close cooperation and coordination with other

[13] Statements can be found at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/about_mgroups/amg_indigenous_main.htm.

[14] See advance unedited text at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd17/mg/mg_csd17_docs.pdf.

[15] E/2008/29, chap. II.D, part one, paras. 49, 65, 82, 85, 87, 89, 102, 107, 124, 136, 153, 154, 170, 200, 242, 243 and 245 and part two, paras. 255 (q), 255 (gg) and 255 (qq).

[16] Response to the Permanent Forum recommendation contained in E/2008/43, para. 69.

[17] Response to the Permanent Forum recommendations contained in E/2008/43, paras. 11, 23, 27 and 30.

[18] Response to the Permanent Forum recommendations in contained in E/2008/43, para. 128.

[19] http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/.

[20] Response to the Permanent Forum recommendations contained in E/2008/43, para. 135.

development partners and African countries to support the sustainable development of the African continent. The Division collaborates with other United Nations agencies in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, supports capacity-building initiatives for the planning of water-related national strategies and infrastructure developments in the region in line with related Millennium Development Goals. The Division also provides financial support for technical projects currently under way in the Africa region under NEPAD, addressing international partnerships for new and emerging technologies for sustainable development in Senegal and Ghana, capacity-building for interregional electricity access and supply in Africa, in the central and east subregions, and strengthening national capacity for the integration of sustainable development principles into development strategies in countries emerging from conflict, which also involves the Asia and the Pacific region.

36. Since its inception in 1993, the Commission on Sustainable Development has maintained its policy to include indigenous peoples' issues and organizations in its work as part of Agenda 21 follow-up, and the Major Groups Programme provides the focus within the Division for Sustainable Development for these activities. While there are no budgetary allocations specifically tagged for indigenous peoples' issues, as mentioned earlier, there is a small amount of funding set aside each year to enable indigenous peoples to participate in Commission-related processes.

37. The Division does not currently have regular or ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for staff. However, capacity-building activities in this area are generally incorporated into the usual programmatic activities related to major groups, including intersessional meetings, regional meetings, capacity-building workshops and regular conference calls with major groups' organizing partners, and ad hoc meetings organized by major groups active in the Commission on Sustainable Development process. As previously mentioned, there are also three technical cooperation projects under way in the Africa region that potentially address indigenous peoples' issues, as well as 19 partnerships for sustainable development working for, or with, indigenous communities.

Obstacles and facilitating factors in implementation

38. The obstacles that the Division for Sustainable Development faces in implementing the many relevant recommendations made by the Permanent Forum are primarily related to the limited funding for the support of programmes and projects specific to indigenous peoples, although it makes available limited funding to indigenous people and other major groups' participants from developing countries to enable their participation in Commission on Sustainable Development-related meetings. On average, two to four representatives nominated by the indigenous peoples' sector are funded annually to participate in regional, intersessional and Commission meetings.

39. Factors that facilitate and enable the Division for Sustainable Development to implement the Permanent Forum's recommendations include the strength and innovative nature of the Major Groups Programme, whose mandate and goals include enhancing the participation and effective involvement of major groups (including indigenous peoples) in Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of

Implementation follow-up[21] and implementation processes and in the Mauritius Strategy for small island developing States, and continuing to provide for more direct and substantive involvement of major groups (including indigenous peoples) in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.[22] Furthermore, the Division and the Permanent Forum share similar mandated issue areas, most notably in economic and social development and the environment (defined as the three pillars of sustainable development) as well as education and health, which are both cross-cutting issues for every cycle of the Commission. This makes the nature and aims of the work of the Division and the Permanent Forum very similar, enabling the Division to address many areas of relevance and importance for the Permanent Forum.

Focal points

40. Indigenous issues are normally channelled by the Division for Sustainable Development through the Major Groups Programme Coordinator and the Major Groups Programme Officer. Contact information is as follows:

Federica Pietracci, Major Groups Programme Coordinator
Communication and Outreach Branch
Division for Sustainable Development/United Nations-Department
of Economic and Social Affairs

and

Tonya Vaturi, Major Groups Programme Officer
Global Policy Branch
Division for Sustainable Development/United Nations-Department
of Economic and Social Affairs

Relevant meetings

41. Below is a list of recent and future conferences and other meetings that include indigenous issues.

42. *Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development: The Role of Indicators, New York, 15-16 October 2008.*[23] This workshop was organized by the Division for Sustainable Development. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss ways for countries to better harness linkages between sustainable development indicators and climate change policy, thereby helping countries to operationalize the fact that climate change is a sustainable development issue. The meeting reviewed national and international experiences on indicators and on information needs for climate change policy. It also fostered a dialogue among different sets of actors in this area.

43. *Capacity Development Workshop on Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Strengthening Rural Livelihoods, Bangkok, 28-30 January 2009.*[24] This workshop was organized by the Division for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It brought

[21] Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, paragraph 139(g).
[22] Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, paragraph 149(b).
[23] http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/15Oct_2008/egm.htm.
[24] http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/work_bkk09.htm.

together senior Government policymakers, representatives of local authorities, officials from the United Nations system, researchers and experts, as well as practitioners, to share lessons learned and best practices in combating rural poverty.

44. *African Agriculture in the twenty-first Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution, Windhoek, 9-10 February 2009*.[25] This high-level meeting was co-organized by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Government of Namibia and the Division for Sustainable Development. As an intersessional ministerial-level meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, it considered how African Governments and other stakeholders can meet challenges and take forceful policy and practical measures, in cooperation with the international community and development partners, to revitalize African agriculture and the broader rural economies in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

45. *Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, 23-27 February 2009*.[26] This meeting built upon the review session of the sixteenth session and lay the groundwork for the policy session of the seventeenth session, with the main outcome being the production of a draft negotiating text for the seventeenth session.

46. *Seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, 4-15 May 2009*.[27] As the policy session of the implementation cycle of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, the Commission at its seventeenth session will negotiate decisions related to the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.

IV. Division for Social Policy and Development

47. The Division for Social Policy and Development is part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The Division seeks to strengthen international cooperation for social development, in particular in the areas of poverty eradication, productive employment and decent work, and the social inclusion of older persons, youth, family, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons in situations of conflict and other groups or persons marginalized from society and development.

Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

48. The work of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues continues to expand, within the very broad mandate of the Permanent Forum, namely economic and social development, environment, health, education, culture and human rights. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum assists the Permanent Forum to carry out its mandate by (a) making policy recommendations to the United Nations system, (b) promoting the integration and coordination of indigenous issues

[25] http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/africa/events/index.htm.
[26] http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm.
[27] Ibid.

in the United Nations system, (c) raising awareness about indigenous issues and (d) producing relevant material.

49. The expansion of the work of the Permanent Forum includes its new role under article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, whereby the Permanent Forum is expected to promote respect for, and full application of the provisions of the Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration. Other areas of work include the small grants programme under the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People[28] and additional Permanent Forum meetings and expert group meetings hosted by Member States, in support of the Forum's recommendations. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and Permanent Forum members also participate in major intergovernmental conferences, undertake capacity-building activities and promote media awareness of indigenous peoples' issues.

50. This section of the report should be read in conjunction with the note by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on reports received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations (E/CN.19/2009/10), and the analysis reports on agenda items 3 (a) (E/CN.19/2009/7), 3 (b) (E/CN.19/2009/8) and 3 (c) (E/CN.19/2009/9).

Indigenous children and youth

51. Following a recommendation of the Permanent Forum at its seventh session, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum has been working closely with the Youth Section in the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in order to facilitate the participation of the Indigenous Youth Caucus at the eighth session. The Secretariat is also supporting the United Nations Programme on Youth in the preparation of the World Youth Report 2008, which includes a chapter on indigenous youth and climate change.

52. In cooperation with UNICEF and the World Health Organization and in response to Permanent Forum recommendations, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum is working towards a workshop on the prevention of indigenous youth suicide. The workshop will take place in late 2009 and will bring together experts on the subject from various regions, with a view to taking stock of existing experiences, including policies and strategies, to distil good practices and make recommendations about how best to move forward on this important issue.

Indigenous women

53. Since 2005, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum has been working in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and indigenous women's organizations to implement the United Nations Development Account project, entitled Engaging indigenous women: local government capacity-building through new technologies in Latin America. The details of this project are outlined in paragraph 60 below.

[28] While an extrabudgetary post is now devoted to this, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues dedicates part of the staff time of four other staff to this task, which is extremely labour intensive, placing almost untenable pressure on staff.

54. During 2008, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum contributed to a number of United Nations reports on the status of women, including a report to the Security Council regarding the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security,[29] and reports to the General Assembly regarding the implementation of resolution 61/143 on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,[30] and resolution 62/134 (2007) on eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations.[31] Members of the Permanent Forum also participated in a number of key international meetings addressing indigenous women, including the ninth International Meeting on Gender Statistics held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in October 2008, convened by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics of Mexico (INEGI), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Encuentro Internacional "Mujeres Indígenas y Justicia Ancestral", convened by UNIFEM, held in Quito in October 2008.

55. Under the trust fund for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a number of the projects selected for funding in 2008 focused specifically on the situation of indigenous women: projects in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo sought to reduce violence against indigenous women; a project in Bolivia focused on the empowerment of indigenous women; and a project in Nepal sought to disseminate United Nations instruments on the human rights of indigenous peoples to the indigenous women of Nepal.

Disability

56. The entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on 3 May 2008[32] marked a milestone in global work towards promoting and securing the rights of persons living with disabilities. Combined with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially article 22, which lays down that particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Declaration, there is already a strong framework for addressing the social, physical, health and general development issues facing indigenous persons with disabilities. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum will work with the Disability Unit of the Division for Social Policy and Development towards strengthening its policy focus on this issue.

57. The second phase of the global survey on Government action on the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities revealed that the three regions in the world with the highest number of indigenous peoples are also the regions with the lowest rate of implementation of the Standard Rules. The survey does not present disaggregated data regarding indigenous peoples, but as a traditionally marginalized group, it can be assumed that indigenous peoples in these regions are strongly affected. Coordination between the relevant United Nations agencies will be promoted by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the Disability Unit to address this alarming issue.

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[29] S/2008/622.

[30] A/63/214.

[31] A/63/216.

[32] Adopted by the General Assembly in December 2006 in its resolution 61/106.

Millennium Development Goals

58. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum has carried out comprehensive desk reviews of national Millennium Development Goals country reports for three years. The reviews have constantly underscored the importance of the recommendations of the 2005 and 2006 sessions of the Permanent Forum, which undertook a specific examination of the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples and highlighted elements for their greater inclusion. The conclusions of the reviews have centred upon inclusion of indigenous peoples in the development of Millennium Development Goals reports and other Millennium Development Goals monitoring processes, improved disaggregating of data, and free, prior and informed consent for all Millennium Development Goals interventions involving indigenous peoples.

59. The recommendations of the Permanent Forum on the Millennium Development Goals, together with the conclusions from the desk reviews, have provided the basis for a chapter on indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals in the Resource Kit on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, as well as a section on the subject in the training module on indigenous peoples' issues for United Nations staff, issued by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum in 2008.

Development Account

60. The Development Account project, entitled Engaging indigenous women: local-government capacity-building through new technologies in Latin America, is being implemented by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum in cooperation with indigenous peoples' organizations and local authorities in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. In 2008, assessments on the communicational situation of indigenous women in each country were completed in addition to a review of existing content that addresses indigenous women's issues. These documents were considered at three workshops, held in Lima in April, Latacunga, Ecuador, in May and La Paz in June 2008. All three workshops were attended by indigenous women, representatives from Governments and colleagues from the United Nations country teams. Based on the principle of free, prior and informed consent, participants at the workshops considered the preparatory documents mentioned above and reached a consensus on the activities for the project. Following the workshops, each of the cooperating indigenous organizations developed a plan of action for the production of communicational material for indigenous women, which will be produced in 2009. Further information, including the assessments and reports of the workshops, is available on the website of the Permanent Forum.[33]

Climate change

61. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs views climate change as a pressing sustainable development challenge that should be linked more firmly to the broader United Nations development agenda, including to more socially inclusive but less carbon-intensive economic growth and to other internationally agreed development goals. The Department is of the view that many sectors may be involved, such as finance, energy, transport, agriculture and health. This cross-cutting approach informs the Department's normative and policy support, analytical work and capacity development at the country level. The Department is

[33] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/dev_acct.html.

able to coordinate climate change issues because it services the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. It is also active in assisting Governments, including in small island developing States, to increase capacities to design and implement national development strategies, as called for by the 2005 World Summit, including national sustainable development strategies that incorporate climate change.[34]

62. Climate change continues to remain an urgent issue for indigenous peoples. It aggravates the existing living conditions of indigenous peoples to the point where their basic rights are in jeopardy. Indigenous peoples' rights are already violated owing to their political and economic marginalization and loss of land and resources. The theme for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum, climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges, highlighted the difficulties that indigenous peoples are confronting in obtaining a role in the climate change debate. Many of the issues raised included the lack of access to technology, lack of policies for indigenous peoples who will have to migrate from their lands, regions and countries because of the effects of climate change, the lack of consultation and the lack of free, prior and informed consent of programmes, such as the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries and the clean development mechanism, developed to mitigate climate change. All these issues remain a major area of contention for indigenous peoples.

63. Indigenous peoples are keen to be included in the Copenhagen negotiations in 2009, where it is expected there will be an agreement between parties on a Copenhagen protocol to prevent global warming and climate change. Unlike the international Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change does not formally recognize the impact of climate change on indigenous peoples. In its Bali Action Plan of 2007, there was some recognition that the needs of local and indigenous communities must be addressed when actions are taken to reduce emissions from deforestation and soil degradation. However, policy action is still required so that indigenous peoples will have a voice within the international climate change process other than attending official proceedings, organizing side events and meeting with chairmen of the negotiation bodies.

64. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has claimed that 2009 is the year of climate change because of the need to reach agreement by December 2009 in Copenhagen, as agreed by all Member States of the United Nations, and because the economic crisis can only be truly solved if new approaches on climate and energy pave the way. He has also confirmed that he is planning a high-level event with Heads of State and Government during the General Assembly meeting in September 2009, and was consulting with countries about the possibility of convening another high-level summit meeting in the months ahead. Where possible, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum plans to promote indigenous peoples' issues at these high-level events on climate change. It also promoted the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change, held at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage, Alaska, United States of America, from 20 to 24 April 2009.

[34] http://www.un.org/climatechange/pdfs/bali/desa-bali07-16.pdf

Promotion and awareness-raising

65. In its promotion and awareness-raising efforts, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum takes advantage of its location at United Nations Headquarters by working closely with the United Nations Department of Public Information, reaching out to media, civil society and Member States throughout the year. An integral aspect of the Secretariat's promotional activities is through the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Development Group. The Secretariat disseminates its desk reviews of selected common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks as well as Millennium Development Goals country reports. It continues to maintain and update a website in English, French, Spanish and Russian, publish the *Message Stick* newsletter and organize annual commemorations of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. In 2008 the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information issued printed booklets of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and a brochure on the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People in all six official languages. Preparations for the publication of the *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* are ongoing.

V. Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

66. In October 2000, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2000/35, established the United Nations Forum on Forests. Its main objective is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment based on the Rio Declaration, the Forest Principles, chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, and other key milestones of international forest policy. The Forum has universal membership and is composed of all States Members of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

67. The United Nations Forum on Forests duly recognizes the vital role of indigenous peoples in achieving sustainable forest management. The links between the health and vitality of forests and that of the indigenous communities that live in and near forests have been recognized and highlighted repeatedly. At the same time, the cultural, spiritual and economic importance of forests for indigenous communities is undeniable.

68. The indigenous peoples major group, as one of the nine major groups recognized by Agenda 21, has actively participated in Forum sessions and Forum-related meetings. At the last session of the Forum, in April 2007, representatives from indigenous peoples networks actively contributed to deliberations and participated in the multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions, highlighting international human rights and the rights of local forest-dependent peoples, stressing underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and weak forest governance issues. The indigenous peoples major group has emphasized the vital role that indigenous peoples play in sustainable development, the cultural and spiritual importance of forests and interconnections between indigenous communities and their natural environments.

69. The United Nations Forum on Forests will address economic and social development issues at its ninth and tenth sessions. The overall themes of these sessions are forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication, and forests and economic development. In addition, at the fourth session of the Forum, the Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue included the following statement:

> "The need to promote capacity-building of indigenous peoples and local communities for the development of culturally appropriate methods of storing and sharing traditional forest-related knowledge was stressed. The recognition of the living nature of such knowledge is essential. Such knowledge should be incorporated into formal education systems and shared through industry training programmes in order to ensure cultural sensitivity as well as preservation and use" (E/2004/42, chap. IV, para. 10, subpara. 12).

70. In 2007, the United Nations Forum on Forests adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the first-ever intergovernmental instrument on sustainable forest management. The instrument makes several references to indigenous and local communities. In addition, the Forum adopted a multi-year programme of work and in 2011 the theme of the Forum's session will be "forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication". Included is work on social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure.

71. The Indigenous Peoples' Major Group has provided its contribution as a group report for the multi-stakeholder dialogue. The Group also provided its views on possible financing mechanisms for sustainable forest management.

72. The United Nations Forum on Forests allocates substantial staff time on indigenous issues, especially through work and cooperation with the focal points of the Major Groups, including indigenous peoples. The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests considers its ongoing cooperation and information-sharing activities with focal points from indigenous peoples' groups to be a capacity-building activity.

73. The United Nations Forum on Forests focal point for the Major Groups, including indigenous peoples is:

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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New York, NY 10017
USA

74. The upcoming eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will take place in New York from 20 April to 1 May 2009. Representatives from the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group are expected to contribute and participate in this session. The discussions will focus on two main themes: "forests in a changing environment" (including desertification, forest degradation, climate change, biodiversity); and "means of implementation for sustainable forest management" (including financing for sustainable forest management). All of these issues are very relevant to forest-dependent indigenous communities. In addition, the session will

include a multi-stakeholder dialogue, during which Major Groups will present their views and recommendations on the issues on the agenda.

75. At its ninth session, in 2011, the Forum will focus on the theme "forests for people, livelihoods and poverty alleviation", and will address issues that are greatly relevant to indigenous issues, including community-based forest management, social development, forest-dependent indigenous and other local communities, including land tenure, and social and cultural aspects of forests. In addition, 2011 will also be the International Year of Forests.

VI. Statistics Division

76. The mandate of the Statistics Division may be summarized into four main areas: developing international statistical standards and methodological guidelines; collecting and disseminating internationally comparable statistics; providing support to national statistical agencies in terms of improving statistical capacity; and servicing the United Nations Statistical Commission as the apex of the international statistical system.

77. In the context of this mandate and the substantive work of the Permanent Forum, the Statistics Division incorporates the indigenous population dimension in all of the aspects of official statistics at the national and international levels, emphasizing the need to capture and disseminate data pertaining to these population groups. More specifically, the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*[35] elaborates in detail the need to disaggregate statistics on the basis of ethnocultural characteristics,[36] especially with respect to indigenous peoples. While stressing the need to capture and process statistics on indigenous peoples, this set of recommendations points also to difficulties that are encountered in the process, such as loose national definitions and the absence of an internationally agreed classification of ethnicity.

78. Despite the fact that ethnicity is not a core topic in many national population and housing censuses, the Statistics Division, as part of its series of special topics, collected, processed and disseminated data on ethnocultural characteristics as available in the 2000 census round. This collection is available at the Statistics Division website[37] and it is complemented by the set of actual questions that were used in national censuses to capture these categories.[38]

79. The Statistics Division notes that at its eighth session, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will focus specifically on the issues of indigenous women and it welcomes this discussion in the context of the preparation of the forthcoming issue of *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*. It is expected that the issues raised during the discussion of this agenda item will provide solid guidance in terms of identifying relevant and appropriate quantitative measurements (when available) and accompanying statistics.

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[35] *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8, United Nations, New York, 2008).

[36] Ibid., paras. 3.111-3.119.

[37] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/popcharstatistics.htm.

[38] Ibid.

80. In the report of the seventh session of the Permanent Forum, it was recommended that the Statistical Commission advocate for the promotion of indigenous peoples' issues in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses (E/2008/43/, para. 111). Following up on this recommendation, the Statistics Division included this dimension in all of the workshops it conducted related to the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. It has to be emphasized, however, that in a number of national practices the questions on ethnicity are not included in the population and housing census as a consequence of legislative limitations.

81. The Statistics Division continues to implement the recommendations regarding the importance of disaggregating data by ethnic characteristics, with special emphasis on indigenous populations, through methodological guidance that is not limited to population and housing censuses, but encompasses other sources of statistics as well, such as civil registration and vital statistics. The Statistical Commission may be prompted to reiterate its support for the necessity of capturing and disseminating data on indigenous populations, most likely through gender statistics, in one of the forthcoming sessions.

VII. Division for Public Administration and Development Management

82. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management would like to propose the inclusion of the theme of participatory governance, which focuses on the areas relating to engaging stakeholders in the development agenda that are essential in the sustainable implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Listed below are some of the major initiatives of the Division in the area of participatory governance, in particular as it relates to indigenous issues.

83. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs World Public Sector Report 2008, entitled *People Matter: Civic Engagement in Public Governance*, featured emerging issues, concerns and innovations in civic engagement in public governance, in particular those that contribute to the realization of the United Nations Development Agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals. The report highlighted some innovative local government practices, underscoring the experience of the cities of Cotacachi and Otavalo in Ecuador, which are managed by indigenous mayors through a cross-cultural approach.

84. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management also organized a panel discussion on managing indigenous local governments: balancing traditions with emerging challenge, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, on 23 April 2008. The panel was held in the context of the seventh session of the Permanent Forum. More than 70 participants representing Member States, Governments, academia and civil society organizations attended the panel.

85. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management also supported the United Nations development assistance framework in Ecuador. It provided inputs to the Cross-Cultural Task Force, which seeks to promote indigenous issues in that country. These inputs were designed as an operational contribution to the current National Development Plan being concluded with support from the United Nations.

VIII. Conclusion

86. The divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs mentioned above focus their activities on indigenous peoples' issues, policies and strategies to achieve the goal of social justice through specific measures that promote poverty eradication and gender equality, and that foster social inclusion for social groups, especially youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples. They also promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, agriculture, rural development, land and other areas through technical cooperation and capacity-building. The Department's policies seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services and increase the participation and integration of social groups such as indigenous peoples in all areas of their mandates.